

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2**

DATE: JAN 12 2015

SUBJECT: Removal Site Evaluation for the New York Solder Co. Site, 15 Crosby Street, New York, Manhattan County, New York (CERCLIS No. NYN000206660)

FROM: Kimberly Staiger, On-Scene Coordinator
Removal Action Branch



TO: Joseph Rotola, Chief
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Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II Removal Action Branch (RAB) has been requested by the EPA Special Projects Branch (SPB) Pre-remedial Section to conduct a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) at the New York Solder Co. (Site) New York, a site which has been determined "Not Valid Site or Incident." This determination signifies that the site is not considered to be a hazardous waste site or an unanticipated removal (incident) by EPA, and that no further action will be conducted by EPA for the property under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the Site are disclosed. As of December 4, 2012, EPA had determined that the Site was not recognized as a valid site under the Federal Superfund program.

The Site was included on a list of hundreds of locations nationwide where secondary lead smelting or alloying may have been conducted between 1931 and 1964, according to entries in historical trade publications. The list was originally compiled by William P. Eckel in a doctoral dissertation for George Mason University, and the research was summarized in the article "Discovering Unrecognized Lead-Smelting Sites by Historical Methods" (Eckel et al, 2001). In total, 89 of the sites on this list are in New York State. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) assessed the majority of the sites and ultimately referred 40 of these sites to EPA for further assessment. The EPA SPB screened these sites in fall 2012 and recommended a "Not Valid" determination for the Site.

Site Description and Background

The Site is physically located at 13-17 Crosby Street (Block 233, Lot 4) in the Cast Iron District of SoHo in Lower Manhattan. Many of the structures within the SoHo Cast Iron Historic District

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were erected in the mid- and late-nineteenth century as store and loft buildings for retail and manufacturing businesses. In the 1960s, an influx of artists into the SoHo section of Manhattan began converting vacant buildings into studios, galleries and, often living quarters. To preserve its historic character, much of SoHo was designated the "SoHo/Cast Iron Historic District" by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1972.

The property located at 13-17 Crosby Street is a seven-story Renaissance Revival style loft building erected in 1901. This building replaced three brick, early nineteenth-century buildings, and has been occupied by a variety of business, including S. Langsdorf & Co., leather goods (1907); the Nonpareil Toy Co. (1915); the Jonick Sirken Co., manufacturer of light fixtures (1930); the New York Solder Co. (1934-46); the Hopewell Sportswear Co. (1979), and Vespa Motor Scooters (2003).

The 0.18 acre property is classified by the New York City Buildings Department as a non-residential industrial building that can be used as living quarters and work space by artists and their households (M1-5B zoning designation).

Founded in 1920 and incorporated in 1928, New York Solder Mfg. Co was a core solder manufacturer that operated out of the 13-17 Crosby Street property from 1934 to 1946, supplying the automotive and electronic industries. The solder typically used for electronics is a fusible metal alloy composed of lead and tin. Solder wires typically have a flux core to allow the solder to flow more smoothly and to improve electrical contact and mechanical strength in solder joints. Lead is primarily used in solder to reduce the melting point of tin, increase its strength and improve its ductility.

Available Sanborn Maps indicate that the subject property has been occupied by a building since at least 1894; however, the use of the building is not identified in the Sanborn Maps. The 1942 and 1947 New York Telephone Directory for this address lists the "SureFlux (Sure-Flux) Solder Co" as being located at 15 Crosby Street. It is unclear if the New York Solder Mfg. Co is affiliated with the SureFlux Company. The 1938 New York Telephone Directory for the Site address lists NY Solder as being located at 15 Crosby Street.

Based upon available information, the business relocated to 684 East 133rd Street in Bronx, New York sometime after 1946. The New York Solder Co. Bronx location is being addressed in a separate Removal Site Evaluation.

Site assessment activities/observations

The Pre-Remedial site files, which included a Pre-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System Screening Form for the Site as well as historic Sanborn maps and city directories, were reviewed as part of this RSE. In addition, an internet search for historic articles and photographs was conducted, and historic aerial photographs and online New York City Department of City Planning property records (including Certificates of Occupancy) were reviewed.

A Site reconnaissance was conducted by RAB on June 30, 2014. The subject property is currently occupied by multi-story residential buildings, and is located in a dense, urban area with little exposed soil within 0.25 mile. Art galleries, residential walk-ups, and a restaurant are situated in close proximity to the Site property. Four New York City Parks are located within 0.25 miles of the Site property: Columbus Park, Tribeca Park, DeSalvio Playground and Collect Pond Park.

Conclusion

There is evidence that solder manufacturing companies have occupied the building located at the Site address; however there is no evidence to indicate that smelting operations were ever present on-site or that a release occurred.

Since there is no evidence that smelting operations were present on site or that a release occurred and there is little exposed soil in the immediate vicinity of the Site, there is no foreseeable threat to public health, welfare or the environment with respect to a release of smelting emissions from the Site.

The available information does not indicate that a release of CERCLA-designated hazardous substances (as defined in section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601) has occurred at the Site.

Based on the available information, the Site does not warrant a CERCLA removal action at this time.

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